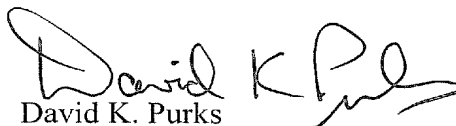


REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's finding that Claims 1, 2, 6-12, 14-16, 20, 22, 23, 26-30, and 32 are allowed. Claims 3-5, 13, 17-19, 24, 25, and 31 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended Claims 3, 4, 5, 13, 17-19, 24-26, and 31 to define that the term "L" refers to time. Applicants have also amended Claims 5, 13, 19, 26, and 31 to define that the term "n" refers to a sample number within the recited equations.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and the allowance of all claims in due course. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 21, 2008.



Susan E. Freedman

Date of Signature: April 21, 2008